RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

1985 MAY ISSUE

JERSEY CITY ELECTIONS

On May 14th, Jersey City ran its Munipal Elections for Mayor and the Council seats. It was a night for many surprises. Anthony Cucci and his Coalition ticket upset the predicted Gerald McCann sweep. Both candidates are scheduled to face each other in a June 11 runoff election. Cucci received 49.7% of the vote while McCann had only 46.8%. The actual totals were Cucci: 28,081 and McCann: 26,455.

The Council races for Ward C and D are also scheduled for the runoff election. Tom Hart (4055 votes) will face Dan Waddleton (4001 votes) in Ward D. Jos. "Buddy" Brooks (2699 votes) will face William Dusenberry (2524 votes) in the Ward C runoff.

Whatever opinion one has in terms of the results, one fact remains: the citizens of Jersey City are split down the middle in their choice of city leaders for the next four years.

The Riverview Neighborhood Association, as a non-political organization, wishes to remain non-aligned in this race. We plan to work effectively with whoever wins in this runoff.

What we, as an organization, do advocate is the need for all our members and friends to weigh the promises and past records of all the candidates. Campaign rhetoric is flying fast and furious. What we,, as a neighborhood group need, is a commitment from our candidates to be sensitive to our needs and a willingness to work with us.

This is an important election for us because it will determine the destiny of our neighborhood in terms of development, property assessment, rent control, crime and city services.

Weigh the choices for both Mayor and Councilmen and vote for our neighborhood.

By: Vito Brunetti

HUDSON CITY AD-HOC DEBATE COMMITTEE

Vito Brunetti

The Ward D Counil debate took place on May 3rd, at P.S. 8. Two of the candidates for the office, incumbent Thomas Hart, running on McCann's slate and Charles Hrbek, running on Massa's slate, presented their positions to a crowd of 125 people. The third candidate, Dan Waddleton, was unable to appear because of illness. He is running on Cucci's slate.

The forum was moderated by Arthur Fabian and the timekeeper was Neida Feal of the League of Women Voters.

The two candidates talked about development, housing stock, education, recreation, crime and juvenile delinquency, rent control and the quality of life in the Heights.

Mr. Hart defended his record of accomplishment over the last four years against Mr. Hrbek's claim that nothing has been done for Ward D in that time.

(Continued on page 2)

THANKS FOR THOSE WHO DESERVE IT!

The Riverview Neighborhood Association had an incredibly successful FLEA MARKET in Riverview Park on Saturday, May 4th. It was well-attended and enjoyed by community members and many purchases were made. It was, above all, a time and place to have a good time, with beautiful weather, happy people, and it gave us all a chance to become re-acquainted with our beautiful park. We wish to thank the following people, without whose help, we could never have had such a wonderful event:

Councilman Thomas Hart and his aide, Marie Murray; The Daniel Waddleton Civic Organization and Pat Lambert; Mr. "G.", Manager of the A&P on Palisade Avenue, near Ferry Street; Jack James, Director of Public Works; Joan Earls, Director of Parks; Officer Cliff Mount and the North District Police; Pat Nelan, Director of Traffic and his staff, the Incinerator Authority and all the neighborhood adults and children who helped us clean up the park during the two weeks prior to the Flea Market; Ed Williams for his chile and onions and hot dog cart; Francis Santoro and Mrs. Allegretto; Madge Sweeny for her 100% natural muffins; thanks to all those who contributed baked goods (which were delicious); Ted Conrad; Dean Howell, for the wonderful RNA banner; Bob Lewis and Vito Brunetti for manual labor, organizing and hard work; Raquel Sweeny, Liz Murray, Dee Ipsaro, Maria and Marie Tuzzo, Ed Lortz; Annie Hart; Mike Cioffi; also to Ellen Boggs and Randy Sanford, who spent all day helping with the sales; thanks to all the people who bought tables and exhibited their artwork; all the people who donated clothing, furniture and other items, thanks to George for the records; and all the unnamed people who contributed to the success of the event.

We'll see you again in the park next year for the RNA Second Annual Flea Market.

Special thanks to the Jersey Journal for its coverage of the event and the wonderful photos that appeared in the paper during the following week.

Carin Lewis, Chairperson
Ad-Hoc Flea Market Committee
and
Edith Springer, Chairperson
Community Awareness Committee

ELECTION RUN-OFF: JUNE 11th
RNA MEETING: JUNE 11th

By: Edith Springer

Since we're such a high-class neighborhood, we know that our members can both vote and attend our monthly RNA meeting on June 11th.

We feel that now is the time to make a choice in the run-off election. Whatever your opinion, whoever you support, the important thing is to get out there and cast your vote. You are not only voting for a person to be elected, or for personal feelings, you are also voting to keep our country — our city — our county, a democracy. We can only have a democracy when people participate fully in government.

We will start the important part of the meeting, the guest speakers on Crime and Arson, a bit later to accommodate all the evening voters.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MEETING FOR THE COMMUNITY, SO PLEASE VOTE AND ATTEND OUR MEETING

AD-HOC DEBATE . . .
(Continued from page 1)

Hrbek showed pictures of urban decay in the area. "He's a politician and I'm not," said Hrbek who is the night manager of a local restaurant.

"I have a full-time commitment," Hart said. "I may not know about a lot of things, but I know about the Heights." Hart offered concrete evidence of his record: rejuvenation of the Central Ave. business district, construction underway on a new School 28, revival in the housing stock and improved Leisure Activities.

On May 14th, the elections were held. The results of the vote are as follows: Hart: 4055, Hrbek: 265, and Waddleton: 4001. Hart and Waddleton are scheduled for the runoff election on June 11th.

PARKS COMMITTEE

By: Vito Brunetti

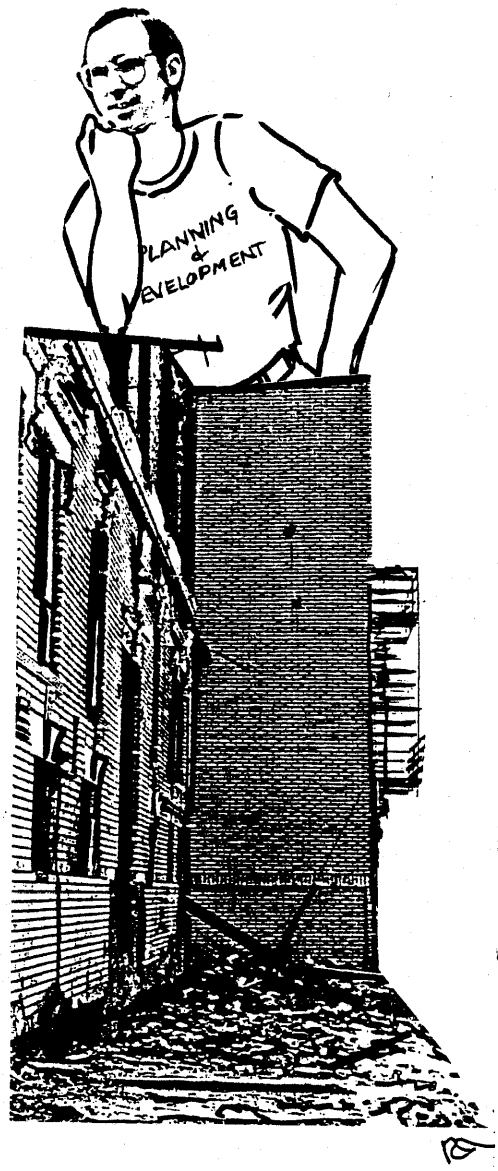
At RNA's April 9th meeting, two votes in regard to Riverview Park were approved by the membership. The first vote supported the Parks Committee's efforts to delay the installation of thirty (30) lamps, as part of the Riverview Park Restoration Project in the park. In the second vote, RNA approved on the Committee's organizing a community-wide forum to discuss the long-range plans for the Park.

The Parks Committee has decided to wait till after the June 11th runoff election to take action on these two votes. We did not want the Park to get lost in the political rhetoric of the campaign.

Since our last meeting, we have learned of the allocation of some of the Palisades Restoration Fund for the repairing of the sidewalk on Kennedy Blvd. We cannot understand why monies are being transferred out of the neighborhood for projects, when badly needed repairs are demanded in Riverview Park, which directly borders on Palisade Ave. The repair of the Park's retaining wall and pavement deserve our attention immediately. We feel that the Palisades Restoration money could be better spent in our own neighborhood instead of Kennedy Blvd.

NO MORE DRIVEWAY PROBLEMS

All neighbors who wish to have their driveways painted with the words "NO PARKING", call Mike Cioffi, Chairman of the RNA Traffic Committee, who is preparing a list with your name, address and phone number and will forward this list to the Division of Traffic in Jersey City, who will have driveways painted. Mike's phone no. is: 792-4595.



WE HAVE TO SAY "SO LONG" TO ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

By: Raquel Sweeny

RNA is going to lose one of its valuable members: ED LORTZ.

Ed couldn't refuse a job offer with the U.S. Coast Guard in San Francisco.

Sitting at a dinner table last week with 2 members of the Community Awareness Committee, Ed was telling us about his experiences both as a resident of the Heights and as a member of the RNA.

Ed worked as a Marine Engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Facility at Caven Point, Southern Jersey. As one of the early members of the RNA, he organized the Planning and Development Committee and has been fighting ever since to keep rational planning in the construction and rebuilding taking place in the Heights. He also organized the fight to save 179 Ogden Ave. and the meeting with Mark Munley, where over 10 RNA members participated in discussions. The Planning and Development Committee has been one of the most active committees within our organization and the committee with most participation of the membership.

As a member of the RNA, he helped computerize the membership list, which has been of great help to our group.

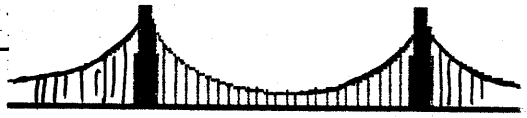
The Awareness Committee could always count on Ed for a tight synopsis of the month's activities of the Planning Committee and, when organizing the Flea Market, he was of great help.

Not only did Ed work hard as the head of the Planning Committee, but as Treasurer, a job which involved a lot of work, he maintained an accurate record of all our savings and expenses and set up our bank account.

With his good humor and charming personality, Ed was an occasional calming influence on the Executive Board. As a concerned neighbor, he once asked a car driver on Ogden Ave. (after 11 p.m.) not to honk his horn. Very often, Ed has heard the comments from neighbors: "I have lived here for 50 years and it's great to see more than a few people doing things and I'm proud to be part of RNA" . . . And that's how Ed also feels about this organization: "It's wonderful because, in a small section of Jersey City, the RNA can get to work very close to our Councilman and Mayor."

The members of RNA wish Ed good luck and at the same time, regret that he has to move and leave us. But, as the last comment at that dinner table, Ed will still be part of RNA, at least through the Newslatter.

SO LONG, ED
AND GOOD LUCK
IN SAN FRANCISCO!



ABOUT THE FLEA MARKET

By: Liz Murray

Who got the permit for the weather? It's great! I've never seen the park so clean . . . waddja do - vacuum it? . . . Look at this – whatever it is, it's only a dollar! . . . and how many franks did you eat? They sold fast and furious all day topped with special onion and chile sauce.

The sights, sounds and smells of the flea market were a delight to the senses. As an understatement, the day was a great success. The RNA sale table, table rentals and food concession made a hefty profit of near $500. Neighbors were out talking, buying, selling, eating, and laughing. Of course, we all had our share of minor snags, but eventually, all was humming for our first, but not last, best flea market in the whole world.

See you next year at the Second Annual RNA Flea Market. Save those old clothes, knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, pots 'n pans, WHATEVER!

Opinion —— *Letters to the Editor*

The comments expressed in this column reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of the RNA.

MARATHON: NO SUCCESS FOR DRIVERS

It seems the only people who enjoyed the marathon held Sunday, May 5th, were runners and running enthusiasts. The rest of the public, especially those in automobiles, cannot say the same.

Anyone unlucky enouch to be caught west of Central Ave., south of the State Highway, or north of the Paterson Plankroad on Sunday morning, were no doubt convinced they had been plopped into the middle of the twilight zone. For surely, it was a Rod Serling-type nightmare. The fact that the race was billed as a "Waterfront Marathon" was certainly misleading to a majority of the population, since most of the race was conducted on streets nowhere in sight of the water, i.e., Central Ave., Kennedy Blvd.

Some of the items noticeably lacking in the publicity concerning the race were the hours in which main thoroughfares would be inaccessible or advice on alternate routes in and out of local neighborhoods within the marathon line. Add to these oversights the general confusion and surely ill-informed manner of the local police in charge of traffic direction and you have the makings of a disaster. Certainly, runners have the right to exercise their sport and surely the state and city should support such healthy activities, but not at the emotional expense of the non-running populace.

One can only hope that the backers of the marathon will re-examine their plan and come up with a better design for the race, or it's possible that the drivers of this city and surrounding cities will push to make the "First New Jersey Marathon" the last one as well.

Sincerely,
Maria Tuzzo

MY "PET PEEVE"

Now that Ihave a dog, I'm learning that pet owners have large responsibilities for their animals. People who have pets, but don.t take care of those responsibilities, make me angry. The two main things in the RNA neighborhood that get my goat are people who let their dogs out without a leash or an owner to supervise them. They just open the door and let the dog out. The dogs bark and jump on other people, including children; they make it impossible for other dog owners to walk dogs on leashes, for they want to play and run with the unleashed dogs, and they use other people's property as a bathroom. I'm tired of cleaning dog droppings out of my flower garden. Aren't you? The second thing that gets my goat is that no one cleans up after their dogs in the park or on the city streets. The law says you have to, but because the police don't enforce the law by giving summonses, people don't do what they're supposed to. Are we uncivilized? Do others enjoy seeing huge mounds of dog feces in the park and on the street? Do they like to step in it? Well, I don't. I beseech you who own dogs, please follow the laws. Don't let your dog out without a leash and a human to supervise and please pick up after your dog.

Littering is selfish and disgusting and dog litter is even more disgusting and is a health hazard.

Sincerely,
Edith Springer

WANTED.... CORKS!!!

Liz Murray

All you wine and champagne drinkers out there – Please save your corks for Liz Murray. I'm working on a few craft projects and need all the corks you can possibly provide. I'm at the RNA meetings and will happily accept all donations. You can also drop them off at 183 Ogden – ground floor, or call me at 420-9241, If not home, I usually remember to leave my answering machine on and I can come over to pick them up. No contribution too small, nor too large. THANKS!

GOOD BY TO A FRIEND . . .

By: Maria Tuzzo

The year we spend in making friends
Cementing ties that bind us
The laughter or the anger that
On occasions blinds us
Are brought to mind most vividly.
When a peer departs
And memory clouds the eyes again
And tightens up the hearts
A look, a word, a gesture
When you're no longer in view
Can only serve to remind us
Of how much we'll miss you.

LOCAL ARTIST HONORED

Congratulations to Douglas Craft on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Castle Gallery in New Rochelle, New York. Mr. Craft, an Ogden Avenue resident along with his wife, Betty, has his work represented in many museums and private collections in the U.S. and abroad. He is also Professor of Fine Arts at the College of New Rochelle.

CRIMEWATCH/ARSON WATCH

RNA's guest speakers at the June 11th meeting will be Deputy Chief Frank Racaniello, of the Fire Department and Lieutenant Crowly of the Police Department, who will both inform us how to help the police and fire departments and ourselves by starting blockwatches to curb and prevent crime.

Grab a neighbor, a friend, a relative and come! IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU!!

RNA "T-SHIRT" DESIGN CONTEST

We are looking for designs for an RNA T-Shirt.

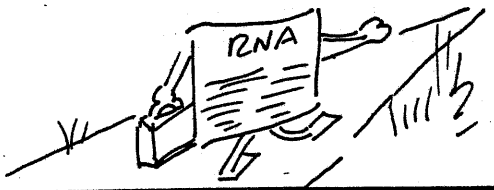
Please submit your design to the Community Awareness Committee.

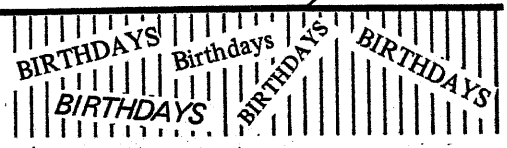
The membership will vote on the one they like best and we will have T-shirts made up for sale to our members.

Deadline to submit designs is Sept. 10th.

NEWSLETTER TAKES A VACATION!

The June issue will be the last newsletter until September. The members of the Community Awareness are taking two months off to work in their gardens, go to the beach, and rest their weary brains. Please continue to submit articles for the September issue which we will begin working on in August. HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TED

HAPPY 75th !!! Birthday to Ogden Avenue's Ted Conrad, the historian of Hudson City and the Elder Statesman of RNA. (May 19th was the day.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE NEW MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE: MARIA TUZZO.

Maria's birthday was May 23rd. She joined our committee after the May general meeting and has already submitted many items for the newsletter plus loads of ideas and has written what will be the official song for our organization, which is printed in this issue as a poem, "Ode to RNA". Don't miss Maria singing this song at our next meeting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS . . . . .

By: Ed Lortz

Since a lot of the committee was busy last month with the flea market, the debate, and the campaign, no meetings were held, but a few things still got done.

Palisade Gardens held a groundbreaking for its new building on Palisade, and we should soon see construction start there. Its house at 179 Ogden has reportedly not yet closed so it might end up back on the market, if you know anyone who might still be interested.

In answer to inquiries, the general contractor for 193-195 Ogden, Norman Fell of Felco Associates, was kind enough to come to our last meeting and talk about his project, particularly to allay fears concerning the damage to the old metalwork on the front of the building. He promised that it would be definitely repaired and replaced as it was before the work began.

In response to an item of new business at the May meeting the committee will discuss the proposed laundromat on Franklin off Palisade and report to the membership to see if we want to take a position should the matter come before the Board of Adjustment.

Two meetings are scheduled this month with developers. On May 22, we will meet with Fredric Rosen, the architect of Pohlmann Hall, to discuss planned future development at his site and on May 30, the committee will meet with Norman Wilson concerning his conceptual plans for the DiBlassi property on Ogden. If you are interested in attending this meeting, or have any questions, call Ed Lortz 795-5183.

ODE TO RNA

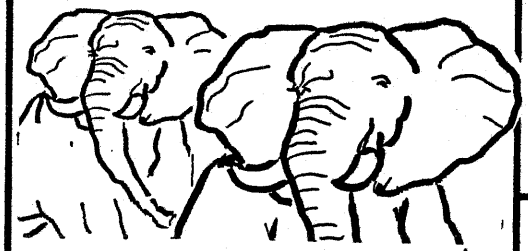
By: Maria Tuzzo

It's time to say hello
And to welcome you
As you already know
We're making change come true.

We're your neighbors
Oh, by the way
We are known as the RNA.
A smile's our guarantee
Toward being neighborly.

We want the world to know
We care 'bout where we live
It doesn't cost a lot
Just our free time we give.

It's not easy . . .
But, can't you see
Making changes
Takes YOU and ME
To find a better way
Be part of RNA .



FREE PETS FOR ADOPTION

EXOTIC AQUATICS
252 Central Avenue, Jersey City
420-1932

CAN YOU NAME THE STATUE OF LIBERTY SYMBOLS?

By: Michael Cioffi

1. What does the broken chain at Liberty's feet express?
2. What does the torch symbolize?
3. What does the tablet stand for?
4. Why is Liberty shown as a woman?
5. Why is Liberty wearing a Greek or Roman dress?
6. Why does the crown have seven spokes?

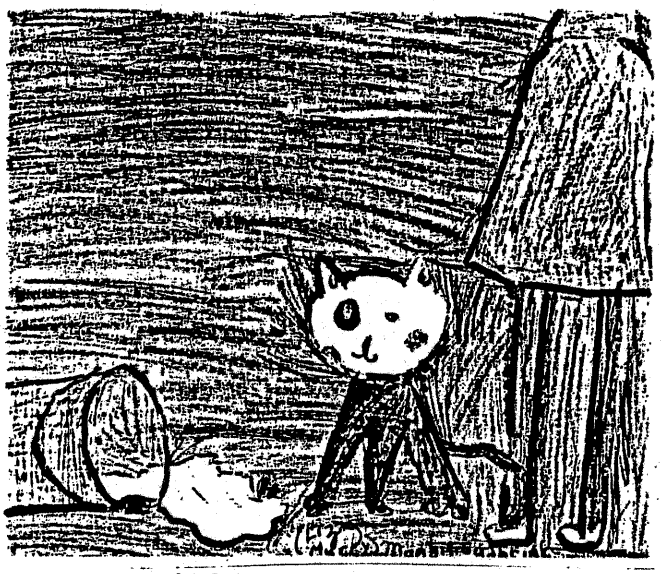
ANSWERS

1. *It is an ancient symbol of freedom. In this case it represents the abolition of slavery during the civil war.*
2. *The light of knowledge or truth, freedom of the press and free speech.*
3. *The tablet, bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence stands for Justice and Equality under the law, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and inalienable rights.*
4. *Because the French traditionally represent Liberty as a female.*
5. *Greece was the cradle of democracy and Rome gave the world a legal code.*
6. *To represent Liberty's rule over the seven continents and the seven seas of the world.*

RNA COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marie "Dee" Ipsaro
Liz Murray
Edith Springer
Raquel Sweeny
Maria Tuzzo

SPECIAL THANKS TO KATHY BRENNAN

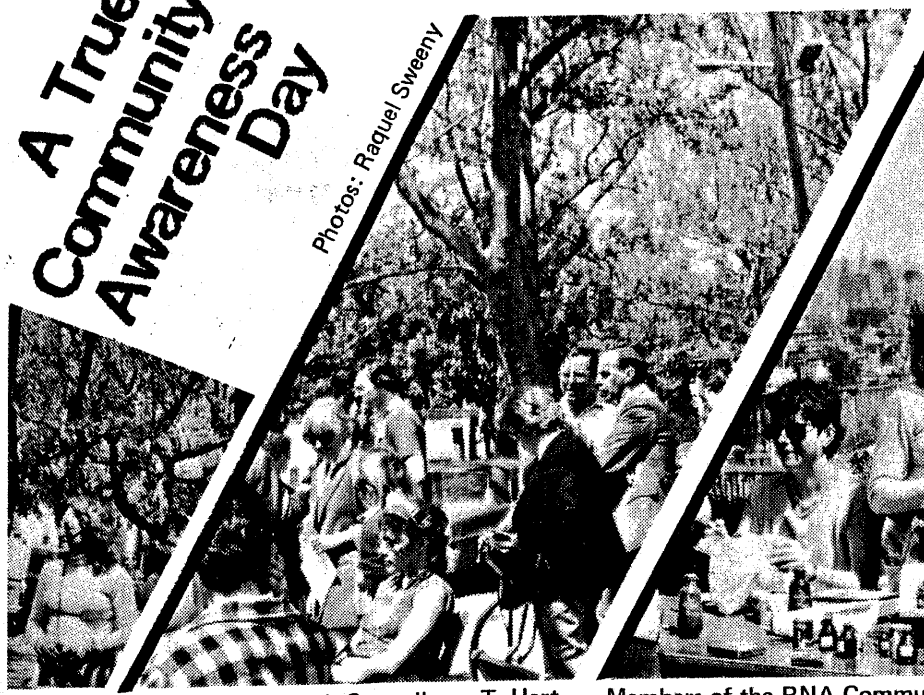


At the Children's drawing contest held at the RNA Flea Market, Maggie Sudbrink (9 years old) own 1st Prize with her drawing (left) and Wesam Farag (9 years old) won 2nd Prize (right).

A True Community Awareness Day

Photos: Raquel Sweeny

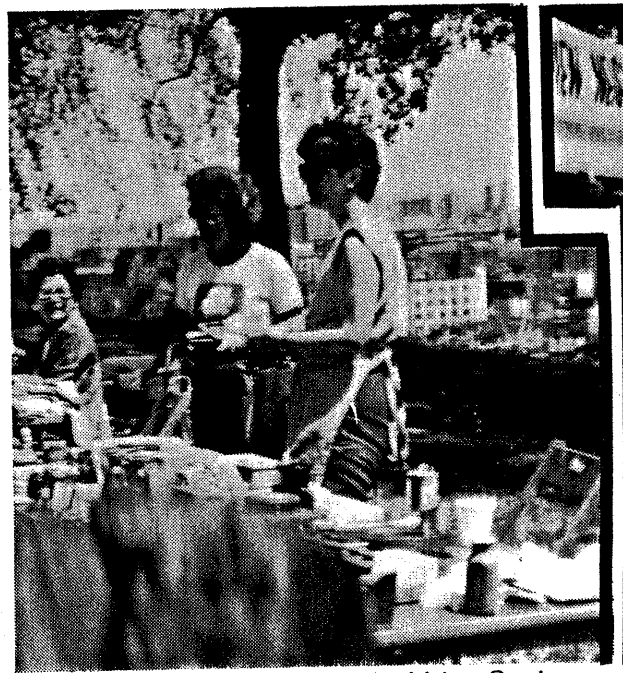
Maggie Sudbrinik displays the drawing that got her first prize in the children's drawing contest.



Ed Lortz chats with Councilman T. Hart, (right, background)

Members of the RNA Community Awareness Committee: (from left to right): Liz Murray, Edith Springer, Raquel Sweeny and a visitor from New York: Isabel Herrera

Another aspect of the busy Flea Market



Liz Murray takes care of customer, Idelma Garcia. To the left, Marie (Dee) Ipsaro.

Ed Williams, standing on the left, takes a break while Bob Lewis is in charge of the hot-dog stand. Randy Sanford (sitting), takes care of the pastry table.

RNA Secretary, Ellen Boggs and Randy Sanford.
On the walls of the gazebo, the banner created by Dean Howell.

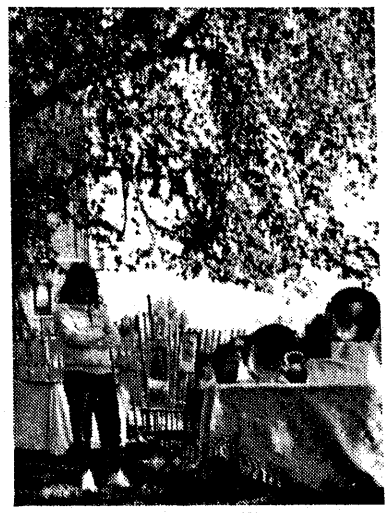
Right to left: Liz Murray, Marie (Dee) Ipsaro & Carin Lewis.

RNA

LET'S DO IT AGAIN

IT WAS A LAZY DAY

A busy Theodore Conrad takes care of some customers.



Artist Andrea Citarelli

A hungry customer waiting for Ed Williams to prepare his hot dog.